(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) No decreasing trend is apparent during the last five years as per the studies of Central Water Commission. However, National Water Development Agency as part of its studies of National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development, has carried out water balance studies of Yamuna and classified it as deficit basin upto Okhla in Delhi. Under Himalayan Component of National Perspective Plan, Ghaghra-Yamuna link and Sarda-Yamuna link are envisaged which *inter-alia,* aim at augmenting the availability of water for domestic use in the cities situated on the banks of Yamuna.

Task force on recurring floods

2226. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prme Minister has directed the Ministry of Water Resources to set-up a task force by July 31,2004 to look into the problems of recurring floods in Assam and neighbouring States;

(b) if so, the names of members of this task force;

(c) what will be the main aims and objects of the task force; and

(d) to what extent this task force will be able to meet the needs of the States which are affected by floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Prime Minister during his recent visits to Assam and Bihar had announced setting up of a Task Force to look into the problem of recurring floods in Assam and neighbouring States. Accordingly as a follow

up of the above announcements, a 21-member Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission. The composition of the Task Force is as under:—

1.	Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) and *ex-officio* Secretary to the Government of India	Chairman
2 & 3.	Experts from Assam (two)	Members
4.	Expert from Arunachal Pradesh (one)	Member
5.	Expert from Manipur (one)	Member
6.	Expert from Tripura (one)	Member
7&8	I. Experts from Bihar (two)	Members
9 & 10.	Experts from West Bengal (two)	Members
11.	Expert from Uttar Pradesh (one)	Member
12.	Chairman cum Managing Director, National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC)	Member
13.	Member, River Management, Central Water Commission	Member
14.	Adviser (Water Resources), Planning Commission	Member
15.	Joint Secretary (Budget), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance,	Member
16.	General Manager, Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati	Member
17.	Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission, Patna	Member
18.	Commissioner (Eastern Rivers), Ministry of Water Resources	Member

19.	Shri R. Rangachari, Former Member (RM), CWC and Chairman of the Working Group on Flood Control Programme for the 10th Five Year Plan	Member (Non-official)
20.	Flood Management Expert from Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati **(one)**	Member (Non-official)
21.	Chief Engineer (Flood Management), Central Water Commission	Member-Secretary

(c)The Task Force has following Terms of Reference:

(i) To examine the causes of the problem of recurring floods and erosion in Assam and other neighbouring States as well as Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

(ii) To review the measures undertaken so far to combat floods and erosion.

(iii) To suggest short-term and long-term measures for management of floods and erosion control.

(iv) To examine related International dimensions and suggest future course of action.

(v) To suggest Institutional arrangements for tackling the problem.

(vi) To suggest the source of funding for the future action plan.

(vii) To examine any other related matter/issues.

The Task Force has been directed to submit its report by December 31,2004.

(d) The Terms of Reference of the Task Force are quite comprehensive and covers almost all aspects of the flood management including source of funding and as such the Task Force should be able to meet the needs of the Assam & neighbouring States, West Bengal, Bihar and Eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh, which are affected by the floods.